

SUGGESTED POSSIBLE RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT BUSH'S INITIATIVES AND PROPOSALS ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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"In general, our response to the constructive initiatives and (with one exception) to the positive proposals of President Bush is, with enthusiasm, "Yes, and...!"

"Yes...and let us go even further, together."

"Yes, and here are further initiatives we will take, with the hope that the US will join us."

SUMMARY (suggested new Soviet initiatives and proposals are underlined)

1. We propose a global "zero option" on tactical nuclear weapons, eliminating air-launched tactical weapons along with those based on land or sea.

--As the US is now doing, we will bring home and destroy all ground-based and sea-based tactical nuclear weapons.

--In addition, we will bring home and destroy all air-launched tactical nuclear weapons. We call upon the US to do the same.

2. We are ending the testing of nuclear weapons--underground or in other environments--by the central authorities or the republics of the former USSR. We call on the US and on other nuclear states to do the same, and to negotiate promptly with us a Comprehensive Test Ban Agreement.

3. We --the republics of the former USSR--reiterate the solemn undertaking of the USSR that our nuclear weapons will never be used first, under any circumstances. We call on the US and its allies--whose current initiatives and proposals are fully consistent with this position--to join us in making this commitment against nuclear first-use.

4. We are ending the production of fissionable material, and we call on the US to do the same, and to negotiate promptly an agreement to forego further production, with appropriate safeguards.

--We propose that the US join with us in urgent study of the best means of disposing or secure storage of fissile material from the dismantled warheads, so as to prevent its future use in weapons.

5. We will join the US in seeking early agreement to eliminate from inventories all ground-based ICBMs with multiple warheads, and will move rapidly to implement such an agreement.



6. Like the US, as soon as START is ratified, we will begin an accelerated elimination of missile systems scheduled for deactivation under START.

--Like the US, we are terminating the development, testing and deployment of new multiple-warhead ICBMs.

7. We will join the US in exploring cooperation and technical improvements in the areas suggested, on the handling, safety and control of nuclear weapons, and in intensified efforts to curb missile and nuclear proliferation.

8. With respect to the proposal to permit the deployment of defenses against "limited" ballistic missile strikes: we shall not join or undertake any development or deployment of defenses against ballistic missiles that is in violation of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty--strictly interpreted--and we call on the US to refrain from any such action, continuing with us strict observance of the ABM Treaty.

Whatever the rationale for modifying, eroding or abandoning the strict constraints that have been ratified by both sides, to do so poses too great a risk of recreating the entire offensive-defensive arms race which the ABM Treaty and now the above initiatives on both sides have terminated and reversed.

9. We propose that both sides undertake further initiatives and negotiations comparable to those above with respect to other weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological.